



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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PARIS COUTURE: BACK TO FIGURE-FIT AGAIN

No more hiding the figure under a bushel-barrel of fabric: "Fat" clothes are out, lean clothes are in. Paris has sounded the death knell on the shroud -- "SLIM" is the keynote of Spring/Summer couture collections.

THE NOVELTIES: "T" is Tops -- T-shirt-dresses -- with polo necklines (Givenchy), with U-necks, or signature "Y" Henley banding (Yves St. Laurent)... T-square silhouette, T-strap sandals (Givenchy) ... and one-piece pantsuits, namely slim, tailored jumpsuits for day and night (YSL).

SILHOUETTE: slim and straight -- but everywhere only the skirt is slim, not the top -- except at YSL, where clinging-slim follows the figure from top to bottom.

LENGTH: below-knee to calf and below, for street wear -- above-ankle, for late-day -- floor length for evening.

DRESSES: they're the backbone of the Spring/Summer collections again! SLIM CHEMISES -- softened with U-seam (Pierre Cardin) -- slim & belted (Dior), with broad T-square shoulderline, deep square armholes and big squared-off cap sleeves or cool wide short ones (Givenchy) ... SLIM SHIRTDRESSES (Dior, YSL) -- with below-hip pleating (Givenchy) ... one- and 2-pc. cardigan dresses ... 2-pc. tuck-in or overblouse dresses.

DETAILS: raised waistlines trending for day and evening ... tucks to snug high-waisted bodices ... pleats to broaden shoulders, or undulate skirts below hipline ... U-necks.

COATS: All are UNSTRUCTURED -- most are reefers or cardigans (i.e., collarless) -- straight TUBES (Angelo Tarlazzi/Patou), even when belted (Givenchy) -- skinny, gold-buttoned reefers (Dior).

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N.Y. SUMMER RTW: SOFT, SENSUOUS CLOTHES

LENGTH: the mini-skirt gathers momentum -- Halston continues his SKIMP (Dec. FI) into Summer, but his regular street length is to the knee -- Adolfo with the 32" length SKIVVY, a long-sleeved tennis-look with hocus-pocus removable skirt -- Geoffrey Beene frankly calls his short tent a play dress -- Blassport does it in front-buttoned Ultra-suede for golf or not -- Haire for Friedrichs shows it well above-knee, to wear loose as a beach dress or obi-sashed over pants -- John Anthony does mini-skirts and culottes -- the mini has been taken up (pun intended) by our Junior Sportswear firms as well as by the California Junior market -- and Pauline Trigere with plastic see-through bands that keep the knees in view ... everything else is from below-knee to bottom of calf.

THE BIG NEW CATEGORY: SHIRTS 'N SKIRTS

The Shirt-and-Skirt is the big new look for Summer -- it works for both day and evening -- is featured in sportswear as well as in couture dress collections.

The T-SHIRT is tops for day and night, smartened up via fabric and styling (Halston, Oscar de la Renta, Teal Traina, Lew Prince of Aldrich) -- with U-neck (Bill Blass), square neck (Haire for Friedrichs), polo (Blassport) -- with rolled sleeves, or zip front (Geoffrey Beene) -- with contrast color signature V dropped into the top of the M on left shoulder (Vera Maxwell) -- even X-draped (Donald Brooks) ... TANK TOPS are pour le sport (Calvin Klein, Brenner Bees), front-tied at waist (Ginala), with contrast stitched tab front and piping (Beene Bag) ... ROOMY SHIRTS have tab fronts (Halston), tied short sleeves (Anne Klein & Co.). The Trigere-spawned maillot bounces back from sportswear's body shirt to couture level: knit body rompers are T-shirt maillots

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FI BOUTIQUE BEAT -- LONDON AND PARIS

LONDON ...

Feathers, 43 Kensington High St., W. 8, & 71 New Bond St., W. 1. Fashions by leading designers.

Conspiracy, 170 Kensington High St., W.8. Peruvian and other knits.

Lucienne's, 89 Knightsbridge, S.W.1. Featuring Jean Muir, Yuki, Bill Gibb, other imports and knitwear.

Hedgehog, 135 Fulham Rd., S.W.3. Fashions by Cacharel, Georges Rech, Jean Varon, Quorum, Bill Gibb, others.

Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Rd., S.W. 3. Art Deco jewelry, beads, pins.

Valerie Goad, 185 Fulham Rd., S.W. 3. Featuring Liberty prints.

Eggs, 54 Fulham Rd., S.W. 3. Specializes in sportswear, knitwear, separates.

Bombacha, 104 Fulham Rd., S.W. 3. Tweed and corduroy separates; jacquard knit sweaters.

Fifth Avenue, Regent St., W.1; 53 Brompton Rd.; 84 Kings Rd. Imports.

Joseph, 20 Brompton Rd., & 33 Kings Rd. Fashions for men and women, featuring Jap (Kenzo designs).

Cannibal, 61 Beauchamp Place, & Chelsea Hotel, Sloane St. Classic shirts in Swiss cotton prints, solids and jersey. Their own knitwear and coordinates made in the North of England. Hand-painted day and evening wear. Some shirts and sweaters for men.

Formula, 59 Beauchamp Place, & 70 Hampstead High St., & 126 Regents Park Rd. Pointelle, tweed, and printed cashmere sweaters from Umberto Ginocchietti. Fashions from Timwear, Georges Rech, Michel Comte. Shoes, accessories.

Promenade, 28 Knightsbridge, S.W.1. French and Italian travel fashions. Also, antique jewelry and belts in jade, amber, lapis, coral, silver.

Elle, 92 New Bond St., W. 1. French and Italian imports.

PARIS ...

Jap, 28 Passage Choiseul ... newly remodeled. Lots of Kenzo Takada's dresses and separates. Tricot knits and other special items are made just for this store; also menswear.

Kristina Antander, 55 Passage Choiseul. Her own knitted sweaters, dresses, skirts and crocheted bikinis.

Mahaveda, 21 Rue du 4 Septembre. Home furnishings and apparel from the Far East, moderately priced.

Victoire, 12 Place Victoire. Sportswear and separates from Christian Aujard, Georges Rech, Lison Bonfils, Francis Laurent, Renata, others.

Mauve, 3 Rue des Precheurs. Old garments and jewelry. Some dresses to rent.

Les Annees, 117 Rue St. Denis. Snappy jacquard knits in mixed yarns. Separates, sweaters, coats.

KL, 3 Rue de Gribeauval. The new Karl Lagerfeld menswear boutique.

Christian Aujard Hommes, 15 Rue de Tournon. Menswear boutique, featuring jackets, shirts, sweaters, ties, rainwear, and luggage.

Laura Ashley, 64 Rue des St. Peres. Recently opened Paris branch of successful London shops, filled with Ashley's long Victorian dresses, pinafore dresses, velvet capes, pin-tucked blouses. Fabrics & wallpaper at 34 Rue de Grenelle.

Frene Faver, 71 & 79 & 81 Rue des St. Peres. Separates and knits, as well as scarves, hats and shoes.

Noir et Blanc, 41 Rue du Dragon. Old clothes, feather boas, beaded embroidery.

Gang, 40 Rue du Dragon. From shawls to antique silks. Good variety of items.

Gaston Jaunet, 24 Rue Francois Ier. Blazers, pantsuits, skirts, accessories.

Candide, 4 Rue de Miromesnil. Lingerie.

(Anne Klein), maillot suit bodies (Ronald Amey) ... and shirt/skirt duos are topped by chiffon capelets (Adele Simpson).

If you've got the top, they've got the SKIRT, in 14 different shapes, including hip yoked, at one firm alone (Anne Klein & Co.)! The standouts: wrap-front, in white linen (Halston) -- DIRNDLS -- hip-pleated -- apron skirts -- circular (Victor Joris/Cuddlecoat, Donald Brooks) -- ruffled drawstring paper bag (Beene, John Kloss) -- long, with bands of fabric to twist into a halter, etc. (Blassport).

DRESSES come closer to body in many summer collections -- T-shirt dresses in striped knits (Marita, Maisonette) -- body dresses -- chemises, slim or modified, one- or 2-pc. -- with painter's smock tops ... BIG FLOATY TENTS worn loose or obi-sashed (Albert Nipon), always obi'd (Albert Capraro/Jerry Guttenberg), obi'd kimonos (Blassport) ... drawstring blousons (Oscar) ... THE SPEED SUIT (Vera Maxwell), a dress which has no closure (Dec. FI), in 17 styles for Summer, including crinkle cotton, printed Qiana, jersey and lace for the gathered skirt, newest in Ultrasuede with the V-above-M contrasting signature at the waist of the long torso stretch top ... SLEEVELESS, tailored, for town (Kasper, Blass, Oscar, Beene Bag, Lew Prince), hand-loomed in quatrefoil pointelle with lattice-lace hem (Gloria Sachs) ... surprisingly few sundresses, now that it's really for Summer, except JUMPERS (Halston), jumper/cocktail (Beene Bag), jumper/sundress, and square-neck sundress wrapped exactly like the original Swirl (Brenner Couture).

PANTS FOR ALL PEOPLE

From hotpants SHORT SHORTS, some happily hidden by coverup skirts to Summer pantsuits, there are enough new versions to suit almost every customer ... 2 SHAPES prevail: loose, with drawstring waist -- and tailored ... NEWEST pants are ROLLED UP TO MIDCALF, to catch stray breezes ... CULOTTES try for a comeback -- paper bag (Kloss), in positive and reverse print separates (Design Thai) PLAYSUITS (Albert Capraro/Jerry Guttenberg) ... sleek JUMPSUITS ... sportswear PAJAMAS -- hostess pants (Beene), blousy, for terrace or patio (Blassport), white satin overshirt/pants (Oscar de la Renta), cotton printed with Chinese calligraphy (Star of Siam),

SUITS: UNSTRUCTURED -- 2-button man-tailored with dapper trouser pockets, the standout in white flannel banded with navy, or else soft, flowing calf-length with unpressed pleats and the same trouser pockets (Dior) -- long one-button jacket with slim kick-pleat skirt (Cardin) -- classic, with straight or pleated skirt (Givenchy) ... BEST BLOUSES: thin-striped silk with bowtie or open neck.

DAYTIME FABRICS, COLORS, PRINTS

GABARDINE stars in all top collections, is used even for dresses, sometimes nighttime, as well -- ivory SUEDE (Dior) -- khaki (YSL) ... THE PRINTS: printed Ultrasuede (Givenchy) -- subtle, mini-dots, some Pointilliste -- mini and shadow stripes ... DAY COLORS: powdery earth tones -- taupe, coffee, pearl -- vie with lilac, lavender and mauve -- with greens, from almond to acid -- and with white, black and all the blues from sky to navy.

EVENING WEAR: cardigans or painter's smocks cover up camisole and slip-top gowns, and YSL's tank-top jumpsuits ... evening chemises ... plunged necks ... raised waists ... handkerchief hems touch the floor ... FORMAL FABRICS: crepe-de-chine the front runner -- chiffon, georgette crepe, silk jersey, muslin ... COLORS: chocolate, red and black in the lead ... PRINTS: marble-printed chiffons -- pinstripes, thin stripes played off against panels of tiny dots -- 3-tone scribble prints -- florals large, with leaf, or scattered.

ACCESSORIES: BELTS, from soft and narrow to wide and cinched, leather or suede, signature initial buckled D(ior) and G(ivenchy) ... SCARFS, from front-knotted skinny to shoulder-knotted shawls, they also sash waists, and replace hats ... HATS: mannish, small to medium brims -- small leather gob hats and cloches (YSL) -- HAIR soft -- small evening chignons ... SHOES -- T-straps, ankle-straps, open- and closed-toe sandals, low heels for day, sexy high heels for night ... JEWELRY: "poor man" necklaces: a single ivory bead on a black "shoestring", or coral-fringed bola cord (YSL), a single big pearl, gold or crystal teardrop on fine gold chain (Givenchy) -- thick twists of Lalique-like pearls -- wide chains of silver, gold or copper ... small earrings: buttons, silver discs, square jet/pearl ... jet/crystal cuff bracelets ... a fresh carnation tucked into tailored suit's breast pocket (Givenchy) FUR: sable, dyed pink, and tasseled (Dior).

IN CAPRI: COLORFUL BEACHWEAR AT MAREMODE

The chemise will be the top beachwear look for summer, cut amply, as a coverup, narrower, as a dress -- transparent, or heavy -- striped, or flowered. That's the message from Maremode (Sea Fashion), at which every boutique in Capri, Ponza, Portofino and Positano exhibited, underscoring the fact that summer seaside dressing is primarily, born in the local seaside shops.

To the delight of sun worshipers (and girl watchers), the bikini will be even more minuscule -- the one-piece suit more decollete ... ultra-short shorts, in jeans-poplin, will reveal more than they conceal, and will pair off with equally revealing bodyshirts ... the striped beach sweater of the 20's and 30's is in for a re-run. WHITE is the top no-color, coupled with every hue in the rainbow.

IN MONTECATINI: SPRING-SUMMER FOOTWEAR

Italy is an accepted fashion leader in shoes, and predictions from the recently held Selezione Calzature showings point to continued interest in the 40's platform on summer beach sandals -- and a slim, classic, often bi-colored shoe which echoes the Italian and Paris Coutures' new figure-conscious clothes -- a semi-slim line will prevail for dressy footwear until next Fall.

SHAPES: TOES a bit rounded, but slanted enough to create an elegant, tapered look ... HEELS are curved, with a marked angle at the juncture where sole meets heel -- all are slim, height varying from two- to three-and-a-half inches ... SPORT SHOES are boxy -- rounded toe, and short vamp.

KID is the odds-on favorite for closed shoes -- synthetics, and multi-colored fabrics for sandals.

NEW COLORS: coffee -- terra cotta -- gypsy red -- Capri blue -- algae green.

INSPIRATION FOR EXCITING PACKAGING

"Tsutsumu: The Art of the Japanese Package" at Japan House, 333 East 47 St., N.Y., until April 6, offers inspiration for exciting packaging, with more than 200 items on display. Among the fascinating ideas in the exhibit are good-luck candies in tiered boxes of thin and crudely finished wood, decorated with water color paints and tied with rice straw; tea packaged in dyed paper, copying traditional patterns for kimono fabrics -- the packages themselves imitate the shape of the kimono. Sponsored by the American Federation of Arts, the exhibit will tour the U.S. for two years.

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UPCOMING FASHION DATES

LYON Int'l Trade Fair, March 15-24
L.A. Mass Merchandise, March 16-19
COPENHAGEN Fashion Week, March 16-19
N.Y. Int'l Beauty Trade, March 16-18
SAN DIEGO, Men's Apparel (MAGIC) Mar. 20-25
LAS VEGAS, Ski Trade Show, March 20-26
MILAN Fur Fair, March 21-24
VIENNA ... Women's Fashion Show, Mar. 21-24
MILAN Ready-To-Wear, March 25-29
L.A. Early Fall, March 31-April 3
FLORENCE.. Fall RTW, April 1-4
DALLAS ... Early Fall, April 5-9
CHICAGO .. Early Fall, April 5-9
PARIS Pret-a-Porter, April 5-10
BERLIN ... Interchic, April 6-9
N.Y. Men's and Boys' Fashions, Apr. 6-9
MUNICH ... Int'l Fashion Fair, April 6-10
LONDON ... Fashion Fair Int'l, April 9-11
N.Y. Home Sewing Show, April 12-15
N.Y. Fall Shoe Show, April 13-15
N.Y. Italian Knitwear & RTW, Apr. 18-25
DUSSELDORF, IGEDO Fashion Fair, April 20-24
N.Y. Fall RTW, April 21-May 9
FRANKFURT..Int'l Fur Fair, April 23-27
N.Y. Int'l Leather Goods, May 6-8
FRANKFURT..Interstoff (Fabrics), May 12-15
DALLAS ... Fall RTW Fashions, May 24-29
N.Y. TEXPO (Fabrics), June 3-5
MILAN MIPEL (Leather goods), June 6-10
PARIS Pret-a-Porter, Oct. 18-23

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